

Board launches new initiative

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board (SBCoWIB), an organization charged with developing a competitive workforce and a strong economy, is launching a new sector initiative.

SBCoWIB is inviting goods movement sector employers to attend a focus group on May 17 to share the workforce challenges faced by the expanding industry.

The logistics industry is one of the key industries in San Bernardino County, providing more than 277,200 individuals with jobs, and is projected to increase by 36 percent by the year 2012.

SBCoWIB officials are hoping that this meeting will hopefully lead to a development of a strategy to develop a workforce that will be ready to fill the need for workers through the development and funding of training programs and key partnerships between business, education and other groups.

"We are looking for eight to 10 companies in the goods movement sector to attend our focus group and provide us with information on their workforce needs," said Barbara Halsey, director of the board. "The focus group will help us to better understand what their workforce challenges are and to develop programs that will generate a positive impact in the community."

SBCoWIB will use the gathered information in the focus group to determine where it can invest funding under a customized training project that could result in a positive effect on the community and logistics companies throughout the county.

The board recently launched

an Advanced Manufacturing Training program after it had great success with its Nurses Workforce Initiative, which concluded in December of 2005. The Advanced Manufacturing Training assists manufacturing companies by upgrading the skill level of its current employees. The program will not only replace the aging workers, but also create a supply of local skilled workers.

"We have had a tremendous impact on the manufacturing industry through the creation of our Advanced Manufacturing Training program," said Halsey. "Our job is to foresee the work-

force needs of the industries that fuel our economy. We establish connections with the education, business, government and other entities to create solutions to develop a workforce that will keep these companies in our county and competitive."

Companies interested in participating in the logistics industry focus group should contact the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board at 388-4389.



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Business

San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board seeks input

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board (SBCoWIB), an organization charged with developing a competitive workforce and a strong economy, is launching a new sector initiative. SBCoWIB is inviting the goods movement sector employers to attend a focus group on May 17, to share the workforce challenges faced by the expanding industry.

Logistics is one of the key industries in San Bernardino County, providing more than 277,200 individuals with jobs and is projected to increase by 36 percent by 2012. SBCoWIB will now tackle workforce issues in this industry.

To begin, SBCoWIB is seeking input from goods movement sector companies by conducting a focus group about the workforce issues in the industry. This meeting will hopeful-

ly lead to a development of a strategy to develop a workforce that will be ready to fill the need for workers through the development and funding of training programs and key partnerships between business, education and other groups.

"We are looking for eight to 10 companies in the goods movement sector to attend our focus group and provide us with information on their workforce needs," said Barbara Halsey, SBCoWIB director. "The focus group will help us to better understand what their workforce challenges are and to develop programs that will generate a positive impact in the community."

The board is in search of employers who are frustrated with, or have identified issues related to their workforce. Specifically those with an

insufficient supply of employees, employers who have identified a gap in skill among the workforce they currently have or those seeking employment in the industry. Any employers who can contribute their opinion of what type of training might better qualify future workforce or better prepare incumbent workers for advancement opportunities are invited to attend.

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ment and other entities to create solutions to develop a workforce that will keep these companies in our county and competitive."

Companies interested in participating in the logistics industry focus group, should contact the SBCoWIB at 388-4389.

SBCoWIB is a policy-driven board comprised of private business representatives and public partners.

It strives to develop a strong, vibrant economy and workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations, along with its Employment Resource Centers (ERC). The ERC provides individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life.

Article Display Date:

New Pharaoh's park looks to hire

Jim Steinberg, Business Editor
San Bernardino County Sun

REDLANDS - Wanted: 250 employees.

The All New Pharaoh's Theme & Water Park is recruiting 250 employees at job fairs from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

The theme park, formerly called Pharaoh's Lost Kingdom, is undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation. It needs employees with diverse skills, said Diana Crawford, human resource director.

With a seasonal work force of 500, Pharaoh's will contribute about \$1.25 million in wages to the local economy, park officials said.

Approximately 250 people have already been hired, Crawford said.

The theme park is looking to hire bookkeepers, sales executives, certified lifeguards, cooks, servers, hosts, bartenders, security personnel, amusement-park operators, registered nurses and licensed emergency medical technicians.

The job fair will be at the theme park, 1101 N. California St.

Applicants must be well groomed and dressed in professional attire, Crawford said. They should bring copies of their current resumes.

Those who come in casual attire will not pass the first round, Crawford said.

Eligible applicants will be hired on the spot. All hires are subject to a background check and drug testing.

The All New Pharaoh's will offer fine dining, a chic lounge and a concert venue in addition to a massive video-game center, a midway with carnival rides, a water park, go-cart racing, miniature golf and other attractions.

The theme park is a partnership between Aryana Group and Co. Inc. and the Braswell family, the original developers, owners and operators.

The job fair is being held in cooperation with the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board.

Article Display Date: 05/03/2006 12:00:00 AM PDT

Business Briefs 5-03-2006

Staff Reports

SAN BERNARDINO

Board seeks input from logistics workers

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board, an organization charged with developing a competitive work force and a strong economy, is launching a new initiative. The board is inviting goods-movement employers to attend a focus group on May 17 to discuss the work-force challenges faced by the expanding industry.

The logistics industry is one of the key industries in San Bernardino County, providing more than 277,200 jobs, and is projected to increase 36 percent by 2012.

Any employers who can contribute their opinions of the type of training that might produce better-qualified new workers or incumbent workers for advancement opportunities are invited to attend. Companies interested in participating should call (909) 388-4389 by Thursday.

Article Display Date: 4/26/2006 12:00 AM

Trucking firms cope with costs

Joe Florkowski, Staff Writer
San Bernardino County Sun

FONTANA - You may pout when you pump \$50 worth of gas into your car every morning but try looking at it from the perspective of Terry Klenske.

The owner of Dalton Trucking in Fontana brings in a tanker full of 7,500 gallons of diesel each day to fill a fleet of 200 trucks. And with each gallon of diesel costing more than \$3, that adds up to more than \$22,000 each day.

Unlike most motorists, Klenske can pass his fuel costs to customers. By adding that fuel surcharge, Klenske can recover his costs.

But two years ago when fuel prices started to rise, Klenske could negotiate those fuel surcharges with customers. Not anymore.

"Where it was a subject of negotiation, now it's an automatic thing," Klenske said.

Klenske's Dalton Trucking is one of several Inland Empire firms struggling with high fuel costs right now. Most can pass costs to their customers according to a rate set by the U.S. Department of Energy.

But the higher cost of fuel is difficult for smaller trucking firms or independent owners and operators who cannot pass along those costs.

For firms like Galaxy Trucking in Ontario, higher fuel costs have led to customers ordering less product, said owner Roy Nickell.

Before, customers used to order a lot more than they needed, Nickell said. Now, they simply order what they need, which reduces the fuel costs but also the costs of what was shipped, he said.

Jack Jones Trucking in Ontario spent \$229,000 in fuel surcharges in 2005, said Valerie Liese, president.

In 2006, that fuel surcharge is expected to be more than \$300,000, she said.

"You can imagine what it's going to be this year," Liese said.

The company is also making some changes where it can, she said.

Some drivers will be rerouted when needed. For example, if one driver is scheduled to pick up a load but can't, another available driver will pick it up, Liese said.

"We have to plan a little bit better," Liese said.

But Liese does feel bad for the smaller owner operators and wonders how they will continue to operate.

"You will see a lot of owner-operators shut down," she said.

Klenske at Dalton Trucking uses about a dozen owner-operators. Those operators can take advantage of the fuel surcharges that Klenske charges his customers.

And that's good news - not just for the operators but for Klenske.

"We rely on them," he said.

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

Weather

Mostly cloudy; scattered showers

High 65, Low 48

Air quality: Good

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WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26, 2006

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Nurses train new pediatric care rookies

Recruits aided in tough job

By Nikki Cobb
Staff Writer

Pediatric acute-care nursing — caring for the sickest, most fragile patients — can take a heavy toll on a nurse fresh out of school, just beginning his or her career.

Between 50 percent and 60 percent drop out in their first year in the demanding specialty. It's too difficult, they say, to watch children suffer and die daily.

"It's true there are enormous demands ... but it can also be one of the most rewarding helping parents" through such crises, said Vicki Bermudez, a former neonatal intensive-care nurse.

Bermudez, who now works as a regulatory-policy specialist for the California Nurses Association, said that normally a nurse has one patient but with newborns there are two: the baby and the parents, which adds to the pressure.

But a program by the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board aims to keep those nurses on the job at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital by giving them emotional support and additional training.

A similar program, launched two years ago also at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, reduced the attrition rate to

10 percent.

In the program, experienced nurses joined new recruits, helping them with technical and medical questions. The student also will have a mentor, someone to touch base with periodically and lend a sympathetic ear.

The \$248,000 program, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, will come from a pool of potential applicants nationwide, and selected by Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

"It's a very intensive environment to work in," said Barbara Halsey, director of the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board. "The question became 'how do you deal with this attrition in a competent, professional matter.' Hopefully, what we're doing is impacting the number of those choosing to stay."

California is suffering a dire shortage of nurses, according to experts. Halsey said nurses in such a mentally taxing specialty — pediatric intensive care — are especially tough to recruit into.

"By working with them, giving them the hands-on day-to-day support ... hopefully what we're doing is impacting the number who choose to stay," Halsey said.



County Workforce Investment Board approves advanced manufacturing training

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board approved the development of a customized training program for manufacturing employees, in conjunction with Chaffey and San Bernardino Valley College. The advanced manufacturing training program will provide skill enhancement classes for entry and mid-level employees.

Despite popular beliefs, the manufacturing industry is alive and well in San Bernardino County and in need of employees. The manufacturing industry, which provides more than 115,400 jobs in the county, is forecasted to grow 12 percent to 129,300 jobs in the next six years. Manufacturers are having difficulty recruiting skilled laborers from the local workforce and they need help from the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board to properly train current employees for advancement in existing job openings.

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is contributing \$100,000 to establish the advanced manufacturing training program, with the goal of it becoming a self-supporting system. The customized training will allow manufacturing employees to advance in their careers and increase their pay substantially.

Upon completion of the training, manufacturing employees can expect a pay increase between 25 and 35 percent per hour depending their job level and place of an employment. The average yearly entry-level wage of manufacturing positions is \$51,135, which exceeds the average household income of San Bernardino County by \$9,069.

Local manufacturers have participated in establishing a curriculum that will satisfy their employment needs. The manufacturers participating in the program development are: California Steel Industries in

Fontana, Tamco Steel of Rancho Cucamonga, Steelscape in Rancho Cucamonga, Schlosser Forge, in Rancho Cucamonga, and S & D Specialty and Stockmar Industrial, both of Fontana.

These not-for-credit classes will be held at Chaffey College, San Bernardino Valley College and Fontana Unified School District. Classes are scheduled to start in May and will occur over an 18-month period, training a minimum of 48 employees for career advancement.

Companies interested in additional information about this training venture or wishing to join the training effort should contact the Workforce Investment Board by calling 388-4389.

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is a policy driven board comprised of private business representatives and public partners.

It strives to develop a strong, vibrant economy and workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations, along with its Employment Resource Centers. The ERC provides individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life.

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

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Weather

Morning, evening rain
High 61, Low 52
Air quality: Good
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

Custom program to benefit manufacturing

Staff Report

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board approved the development of a customized training program for manufacturing employees in conjunction with Chaffey and San Bernardino Valley colleges.

The program will provide skill enhancement classes for entry and midlevel employees.

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is contributing \$100,000 to establish the advanced manufacturing training program.

The training will allow employees to advance in their careers and increase their pay.

Upon completion of the training, employees can expect a pay increase between 25 percent and 35 percent.

Manufacturers participating in the program include:

- California Steel Industries in Fontana
- Tamco Steel in Rancho Cucamonga
- Steelscape in Rancho Cucamonga
- Schlosser Forge in Rancho Cucamonga
- S&D Specialty in Fontana
- Stockmar Industrial in Fontana

The classes will be held at Chaffey College, San Bernardino Valley College and Fontana Unified School District.

Classes are scheduled to start in May and will occur over an 18-month period, training a minimum of 48 employees.

Companies interested in additional information or those wishing to participate should contact the Workforce Investment Board at (909) 388-4389.